

THE ROSARY FOR CHILDREN



THE ROSARY
FOR
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THE ROSARY FOR CHILDREN

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WHAT IS THE ROSARY?

The rosary is a special way of praying to God that honors Mary, the Mother of Jesus. While you recite familiar prayers—the Our Father and Hail Mary—let your mind and imagination think about certain stories in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These stories are usually called mysteries; a mystery is a story about God. This book will help you know what stories or mysteries to think about as you pray the rosary.

To keep count of the prayers and the mysteries, people use rosary beads.



THREE SETS OF STORIES

There are three sets of stories to think about while you pray the rosary: Five Joyful Stories (see page 15), Five Sorrowful Stories (see page 25), and Five Glorious Stories (see page 35).

People usually pray the Joyful Stories on Mondays and Thursdays, the Sorrowful Stories on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Glorious Stories on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Some people pray all three sets of stories in a single day.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed, the first prayer of every rosary, is recited while you hold the crucifix.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb JESUS.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.



ASKING GOD'S BLESSING

After the creed, recite the Our Father followed by three Hail Marys. As you say these prayers and move your fingers along the beads to keep count, you may ask God to fill you with faith, hope, and love.

Also ask God to let the stories of Jesus and Mary come alive in your mind and imagination while you pray the rosary. As you think about each story, recite the Our Father and ten Hail Marys followed by the Glory prayer: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.*



First Joyful Mystery

THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED

God wants to send his son Jesus to earth to show us how much he loves us. He finds a lovely young woman named Mary whom he asks to be Jesus' mother. Mary says yes to God.

As Jesus begins to grow inside her as a baby, she loves him very much and talks to him. She also says thank you to God for the special gift that Jesus is in her life.



Second Joyful Mystery

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

Mary's old cousin Elizabeth is going to have a baby, too. Mary visits Elizabeth's home until her baby is born. They will name her son John. When he grows up people will call him John the Baptist.

While they visit, Mary and Elizabeth talk about their babies and how much they love them.

You were once growing inside your mother. She loved you and was eager for you to be born.



Third Joyful Mystery

JESUS IS BORN

In a stable near the city of Bethlehem, Jesus is born. He opens his eyes to see the faces of Mary and Joseph smiling at him. His hands reach out to them and they touch him to assure him that he is safe and that they love him.

They welcome Jesus into their family and dream of all the wonderful things they would show him.

What things would you like to show Jesus?



Fourth Joyful Mystery

JESUS IS PRESENTED TO GOD

As good Jewish parents, Mary and Joseph take their child to the temple and, with a priest present, offer their child to God. They know that their baby is a special gift from God. They tell God that they will take good care of the child God gave them. They promise to love and cherish Jesus, to protect him and keep him safe, to hug him, feed him, and play with him.

They also promise to teach Jesus all about God, who is mother and father of us all.



Fifth Joyful Mystery

JESUS IS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE

When Jesus is twelve years old, his parents take him to the big temple in Jerusalem. And Jesus gets lost. Or so Joseph and Mary think. Actually, Jesus is in the discussion room asking questions of the wise priests and teachers.

Joseph and Mary are relieved to find him and they take him home and love him.

Even when you are lost, God watches over you and helps you find your way home.



First Sorrowful Mystery

JESUS' AGONY IN THE GARDEN

When Jesus grows up, some Jewish leaders do not like what Jesus is saying, so they decide to have him put to death.

One night, Jesus is praying alone in a garden. Knowing that his enemies are coming to get him, he is very frightened, cold, and sweaty.

He asks God his Father if he can escape. But his Father wants him to go through with it so that everyone—including us—will know how much God and Jesus love us.



Second Sorrowful Mystery

JESUS IS WHIPPED

Jesus is brought to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, who orders Jesus to be whipped. The soldiers carry out the command.

While the whip hurts Jesus very much, Jesus remembers all of us with love. It makes the pain easier because he knows that his suffering will bring God's loving forgiveness to the world.

When you have pain, you can offer your suffering for the life of the world.



Third Sorrowful Mystery

JESUS IS CROWNED WITH THORNS

Not only do the soldiers whip Jesus until he bleeds, but they also embarrass him by playing a game of King, with Jesus as king. They tie his hands with rope, put a purple cloth around him, and make a crown for his head out of piercing thorn vine. They dance around him, teasing him and spitting at him. Throughout it all, Jesus remains silent.

When you are teased and made fun of, you know that Jesus understands.



Fourth Sorrowful Mystery

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

Pilate orders Jesus to die by crucifixion—being nailed to a cross. Jesus must carry the rough, heavy wooden cross through the city to Calvary hill. On the way he falls down at least three times and he meets some people he knew. Some feel sorry for him, but many are glad to see him punished.

Jesus is good and kind to people and yet some want to have him punished. Sometimes when you do something good, people may resent you. Pray that Jesus will always give you strength and courage.



Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Imagine Jesus' mother watching Jesus hanging on the cross slowly dying. While he hangs there for three hours, he keeps telling God to forgive everyone for what they are doing to him, and to bless the earth.

Jesus wants his willingness to suffer and die to show that he loves us with all his being.

Jesus asks for your love in return. Won't you tell Jesus that you love him?



First Glorious Mystery

JESUS RISES FROM HIS TOMB

After Jesus dies, his friends bury him in a tomb, thinking that everything is finished. But it isn't. God, who lets Jesus be put to death out of love, shows even greater love by bringing Jesus back to life again in a glorified body.

In his new body, Jesus can move through walls and change his appearance so that even his friends cannot recognize him.

Jesus promises that one day, when he leads you through death, your own body will be glorified like his.



Second Glorious Mystery

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

Jesus' work is complete. He has taught his disciples everything they need to know, and now he is ready to return to God's presence—what we call heaven—to live forever close to God, as close as heart to heart.

The ascension happens when Jesus takes his friends to a hillside and as they watch he is lifted out of their sight.

The apostles will miss him, but they are happy to know that he is with God in the closest way possible.



Third Glorious Mystery

THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS

The apostles of Jesus, together in their house, remember all that Jesus taught them, but now that Jesus has gone they are afraid to go outside and tell others about Jesus and his love.

On Pentecost morning God's Holy Spirit comes to them, filling their minds and hearts with courage. They run out into the streets and begin speaking about Jesus to everyone. Many people come to believe in Jesus. It is a glorious day.

When you are afraid, always ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you.



Fourth Glorious Mystery

MARY IS ASSUMED INTO HEAVEN

We are told that when Mary grows old Jesus does not let her die the way ordinary people do. Instead, she is taken to heaven, body and soul. Jesus' special love for his mother brings her to heaven, where with Jesus she sends love to all of us, telling us how glorious it is in heaven.

Tell Mary you hope to be with her and Jesus in heaven and that you will come as soon as you do all the things on earth that you are meant to do.



Fifth Glorious Mystery

MARY IS CROWNED IN HEAVEN

Not only does Jesus want his mother to be with him in heaven, but he prepares a special place for her there. She is to be queen of heaven.

Picture the angels and holy souls gathering around the throne of God, all of them singing of God's glory, as Jesus welcomes Mary to be with him at the very center of heaven.

Let yourself want to be with Mary and Jesus. Feel how they love you and let yourself love them in return. Tell them you wish to be with them forever.



PRAYING THE ROSARY

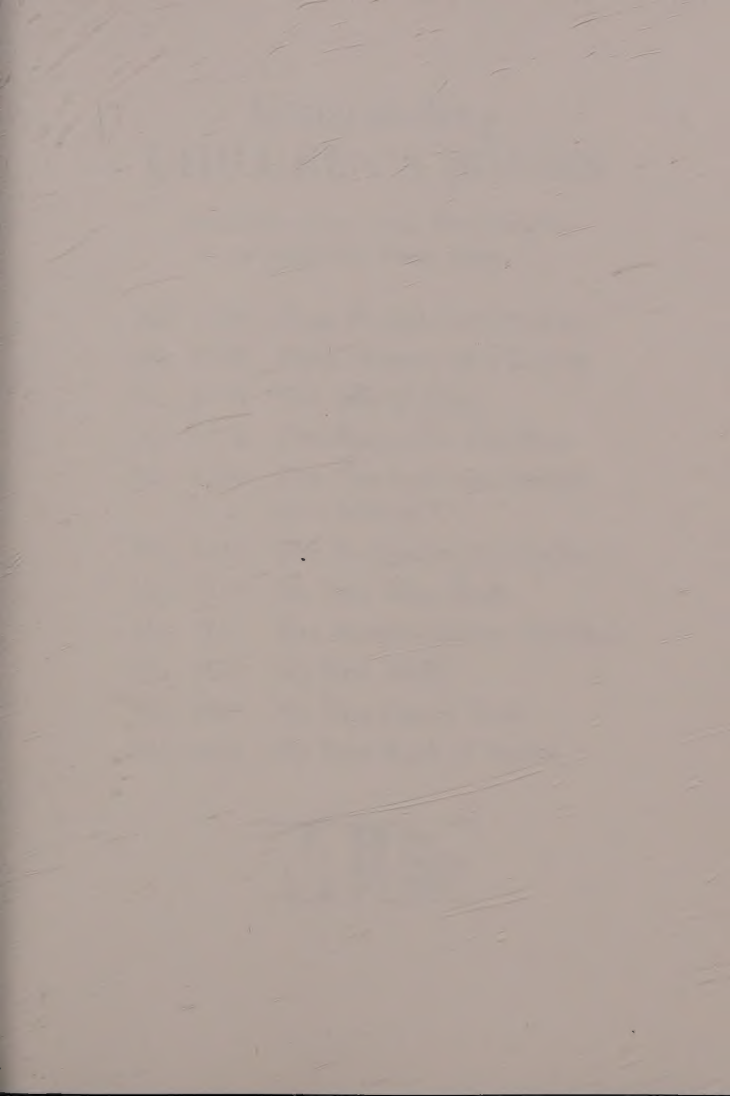
After you finish praying all the stories of the rosary, you realize that you have relived the entire life of Jesus.

While you can read stories about many people, the life of Jesus is the only life that you can *pray*, not merely read.

May you pray the life of Jesus again and again all through your life. And may the Rosary draw you ever closer to Mary and her son.

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